

UC 11749 12S

Approved by COE
Undergraduate Studies Committee
L. Pierson 3/1/12
Dr. Melissa Pierson Date

Memo

To: UH Undergraduate Committee
From: Melissa Pierson, Associate Dean, College of Education
Date: 2/29/12
Re: Proposal for College of Education Pre-majors in 1) Pre-Teaching, 2) Pre-HDFS, and 3) Pre-Health

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There is precedence at the University of Houston for undergraduates within a college to declare as a "Pre-major" in order to take introductory courses. Then, upon successful completion of those courses, and other benchmarks, those students become eligible to declare as the degree-seeking major in order to progress in the program.

We propose such Pre-Majors in our three undergraduate majors: 1) Teaching, 2) Human Development and Family Studies (HDFS), and 3) Health. Each Pre-Major plan will allow students to pursue course requirements and seek appropriate academic advisement for the degree-seeking major. After meeting a set of entry benchmarks specific to each major, students will be eligible to apply to the degree-seeking major. (Please see Attachment A for a graphic of how the Pre-Majors in the College fit together. Note that the right column designates a new major for Education and Human Services, currently in review.)

Rationale for all benchmarks: These courses provide the foundational knowledge for later major requirements. By requiring them as a pre-major and requiring completion with a "C" or better, we hope to ensure the following:

- 1) Students complete these courses early in their academic careers.
- 2) Students are better prepared upon entering the major.
- 3) Students will use these foundational courses to assess and confirm their interest and aptitude in their chosen major.

Proposed Catalog Language for College of Education Pre-Major Admissions

All entering students in the College of Education declare as a Pre-HDFS, Pre-Health, or Pre-Teaching major and will work with an academic advisor to follow an informational plan leading to successful completion of program requirements. The majors of Human Development and Family Studies, Health, and Elementary and Secondary Teaching and Curriculum require completing a set of specific benchmarks in addition to university core requirements. Once those benchmarks are met, students will be eligible to apply to one of these specific majors within the college.

Students in pre-majors will follow the coursework required on the degree-seeking major degree plans. The required GPA for entry into a pre-major is the same as that for the major: Pre-HDFS is 2.0; pre-Health is 2.3; pre-Teaching is 2.5.

The Benchmark requirements to complete during each pre-major in order to declare for each degree-seeking major are as follows:

- **HDFS Benchmarks**

As prerequisites to the Human Development and Family Studies major, students must complete HDFS 1300 (Development of Contemporary Families), HDFS 2317 (Introduction to Human Development), and one of the following two courses: HDFS 1311 (Development of Self-regulated Learning) OR HDFS 2320 (Research Methods in HDFS). Each course must be completed with a "C" or better before the student will be eligible to declare a major in HDFS. The remaining course (i.e., HDFS 1311 or HDFS 2320) must be completed with a "C" or better for graduation in HDFS. Students who transfer one or more of the prerequisite courses must file any petitions for course equivalencies at the time of declaration of the HDFS pre-major in order to be eligible to declare a major. These course equivalencies must be completed with a grade of "C" or better.

- **Health Benchmarks**

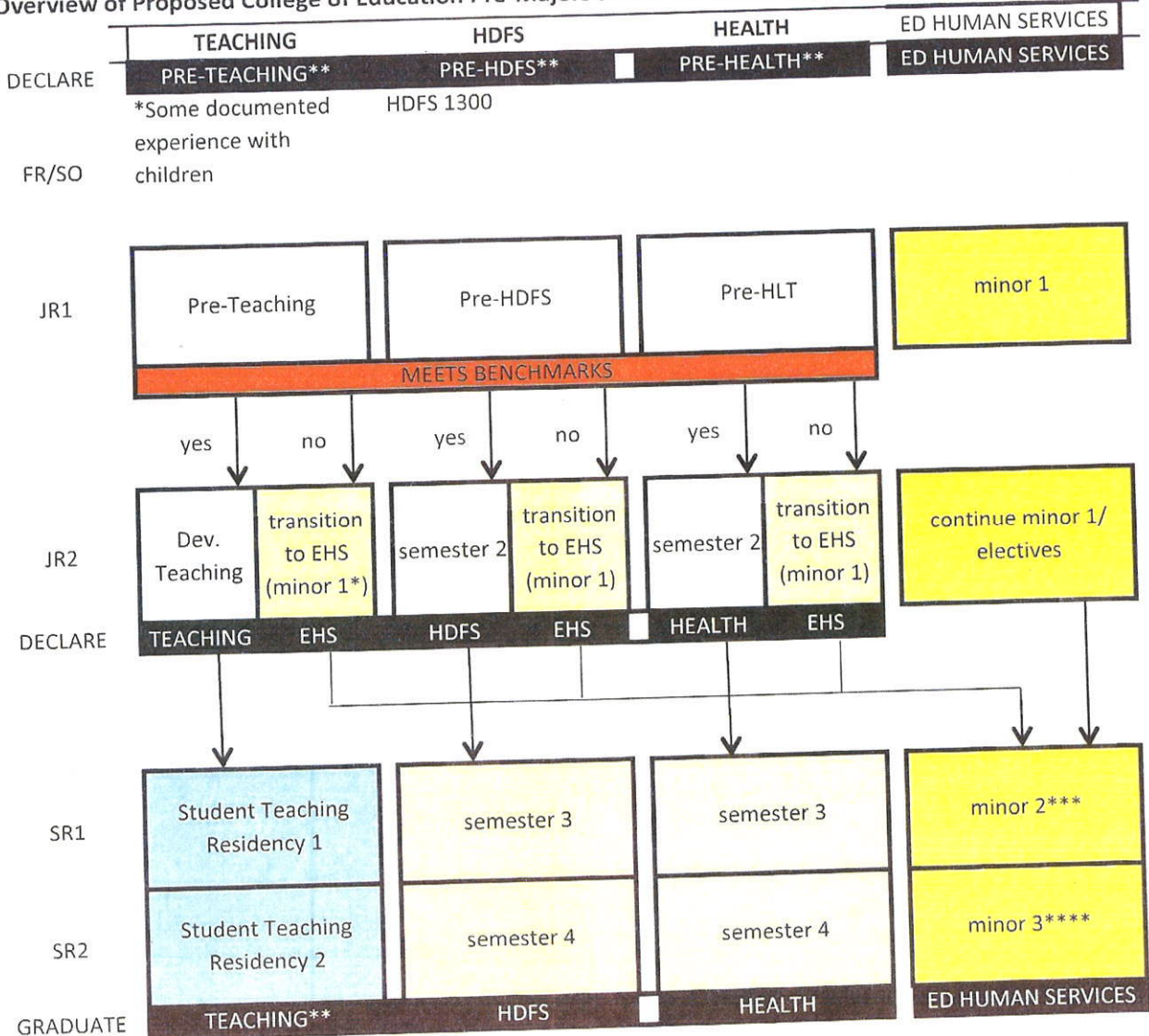
As prerequisites to the Health major, students must complete HLT 1353 (Personal Health), HLT 2320 (Introduction to Public Health), and one of the following two courses: HLT 3301 (Health Behavior Theory & Practice) OR HLT 3381 (Health Promotion and Disease Prevention). Each course must be completed with a "C" or better before the student will be eligible to declare a major in HLT. The remaining course (i.e., HLT 3301 or HLT 3381) must be completed with a "C" or better for graduation in HLT. Students who transfer one or more of the prerequisite courses must file any petitions for course equivalencies at the time of declaration of the HLT pre-major in order to be eligible to declare a major. These course equivalencies must be completed with a grade of "C" or better.

- **Teaching Benchmarks**

As prerequisites to the Elementary or Middle School Teaching and Curriculum majors, students must complete CUIN 3316 (Prekindergarten Curriculum) or CUIN 3221 (Introduction to Teaching Middle Grades); ELED 3320 (Survey of Literature for Children and Adolescents), and CUIN 3397 (Urban Child). Each course must be completed with a "C" or better before the student will be eligible to declare a major in Elementary or Middle School Teaching and Curriculum. Students who transfer one or more of the prerequisite courses must file any petitions for course equivalencies at the time of declaration of the Teaching pre-major in order to be eligible to declare a major. These course equivalencies must be completed with a grade of "C" or better. In addition, candidates must pass a required writing assessment, complete an admissions interview, and demonstrate the ability to pass a criminal history background check, performed by participating school districts, to ensure that required school field placements can be completed.

Attachment A.

Overview of Proposed College of Education Pre-Majors and B.S in Education and Human Services Major



*degree requires modifications; will change the Education minor (without certification) will be modified to allow for 15 hours of education courses, not to include methods

**new degree being proposed through the appropriate procedures.

***selected from those offered in the College

****selected from those minors offered in the College or from outside the College of Education, with approval